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Karla Maria Rothstein, architect and design director at Latent Productions, Tuesday talks about plans for the Greylock Mill in North Adams and a federal grant from the USDA that will help fund the project with North Adams Mayor Richard Alcombricht.

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NORTH ADAMS — A massive event space and a dairy production facility are coming to North Adams — all in the same building.

The developers of the Greylock Mill on Route 2 were joined by federal and local officials Tuesday to celebrate two U.S. Department of Agriculture grants to the project, including one that will pay for the creation of a cheese affinage and another that will pay for the development of, and assistance to, local and regional food producers.

The total of the two grants, revised upward from an announcement last week, is \$173,900. The first grant, for the cheese affinage facility, was \$75,000 awarded through the USDA's Rural Development division to 1Berkshire Strategic Alliance, an offshoot of the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce. The second grant, to help local food production companies with business planning and strategy, was \$98,900 and awarded through the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to the city of North Adams.

New York City-based Latent Productions, which bought the former Cariddi Mill earlier this year,

has unveiled an ambitious renovation plan for the date mill facility that includes hotel, residential, retail, food production and event spaces.

“In the 15 months since [co-owner] Sal [Perry] and I first began working in the region and on this particular project, we've encountered so much enthusiasm and support and participation,” said Karla Rothstein, an architect and partner at Latent Productions.

Food production is at the center of the Greylock Mill plans and will take place in what is known as the weave shed, the eastern wing of the mill facility. The developers already have begun working with local tradespeople and businesses to begin the construction of a 10,000-square-foot events space and a commercial incubator kitchen, which will allow smaller food production businesses to operate without the red tape of opening their own kitchen, according to Rothstein.

“I hope and think, solidly, that future generations will be here. This is part of what is yet to come, and I think that is truly fantastic,” said Jennifer Lerch, representing the USDA's Rural Development office in Boston.

Local leaders lauded the progress made thus far on the mill project and attributed it to a sense of collaboration in the community.

Jonathan Butler, CEO of 1Berkshire, praised the city for creating an environment suitable to entrepreneurship and said that the USDA grants would be the “catalysts for much bigger things.”

“You really have to plant the seeds for that growth,” Butler said.

Barbara Zheutlin, executive director of Berkshire Grown, a local nonprofit that focuses on supporting local food and farms, praised Latent Productions and the renovation plans.

“We're excited that these people have a vision to strengthen our local economy by focusing on food,” Zheutlin said.

Although the Agricultural Marketing Service grant requires some matching funds from the recipient, the city has entered a subagreement with the developers that puts them on the hook for any additional funds and absolves the city of any obligation to match, according to Alcombricht.

“I'm really thrilled to see what's going on here, the excitement that it's now starting to bring,” he said.